

Torrance, California
April 24, 1945

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, April 24, 1945, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: Gilbert.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held April 10, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Walteria Civic Organization, requesting that a police substation, with police protection twenty-four hours daily, be considered for the Walteria area.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be referred to the Council as a whole for study and report at the next Regular Meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A joint communication, from the American Legion, Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170 and Torrance Post No. 3251, Veterans of Foreign Wars, in the form of a resolution, was read, requesting the City Council to set aside a certain portion of El Prado Park, namely the Easterly 100 feet of said Park facing Gravens Avenue, for Memorial purposes; and stating that it is the desire of the Veterans Organizations to use the portion of the Park so dedicated for annual Memorial Day Services by all Patriotic Groups.

Councilman Cucci requested further information as to the purpose of this request; and Mr. Earl Conner, Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3251, who was in the audience, advised that the idea was to make this portion of El Prado Park a permanent place for holding Memorial Day Services in Torrance due to the fact that there is no cemetery in this City, and the Veterans Organizations felt it would be a fine gesture on the part of the City to set aside a particular area which would become familiar in the minds of our citizens as a spot dedicated to the Veterans who have paid the supreme sacrifice.

Councilman Powell asked Mr. Conner if there would be any objection to his Committee meeting with the Council and representatives of other civic groups in an endeavor to arrive at some definite plans that would be agreeable to all, and perhaps some of the other civic organizations would have some helpful suggestions.

Mr. Conner replied that this would be perfectly agreeable, and they would welcome any suggestions, but would like to have such a meeting as soon as possible as they planned to hold Memorial Day Services on Sunday, May 27th.

After some further discussion, it was decided to hold this meeting on Wednesday, May 2nd, at 7:30 P.M., and the press was requested to publicize this meeting.

At 8:00 P.M. the Mayor announced it was time to open bids for the purchase of a track-laying type, Tractor-Loader.

Clerk Bartlett opened and read the following bids:

- (1) Bid from Shaw Sales and Service Co., 2027 South Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, as follows:

- 1 - Allis-Chalmers Model HD7 Diesel operated track-laying tractor equipped with one McCaffrey tractor shovel with 1½ yard bucket \$7200.00

For the ripper add \$485.00, also installed and delivered.

Delivery three weeks following approval and release of WPB1319 Form.

Cash discount 5% - subject to Calif. Sales Tax.

- (2) Bid from Smith Booth Usher Company, 2001 Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, as follows:

- 1 - New IHC Model TD-9 Diesel Tractor, 38.88 D.B. H.P., 60" C/C Tread, 15" flat track shoes, 5 roller truck frame, oversize front idler, electric starter, blower type fan and standard equipment; and including

- 1 - New Bucyrus-Erie Hydraulic Controlled "Dozer-Shovel" 3/4 cu. yd. capacity, complete with pump, valve and operating controls, including radiator and pump guard and all standard equipment, mounted on above tractor

Total weight - 17,000#

PRICE \$6249.00

- (3) Bid from Shepherd Tractor & Equipment Company, 150 West Jefferson Street, Los Angeles, as follows:

- 1 - "Caterpillar" Diesel Tractor, Model D4, special wide-gauge with 13" heat-treated flat track shoes, non-oscillating 5-roller track frame, blower fan, large front idlers, front power take-off, metallic clutch; equipped with Trackson Model T4 cable-control front-end loader with 3/4 yard bucket and counterweight - f.o.b. Torrance, California \$5257.00

State sales tax to be added, and a discount of 2% for cash will be allowed from these prices.

ALTERNATE BID

- 1 - "Caterpillar" Diesel Tractor, Model D2, special wide-gauge with 12" heat-treated flat track shoes, non-oscillating 5-roller track frame, blower fan, large front idlers, front power take-off; equipped with Trackson Model T2 cable-control front-end loader with 3/4 yard bucket and counterweight - f.o.b. Torrance, Calif. . . . \$4100.00

State sales tax to be added, and a discount of 2% for cash will be allowed from these prices.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bids be referred to the City Engineer for checking and report at the next Regular Meeting of the Council. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Texas Company, enclosing report of earnings covering Ordinances Nos. 117, 884, 1129 and 1377 for the period January 1, 1944 to December 31, 1944, showing no gross receipts from the use, operation or possession of the above-mentioned ordinances. The Texas Company, however, enclosed their check for \$26.08, which was offered by way of compromise in full payment of all amounts dues or claimed to be due under these ordinances.

Following a short discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney be instructed to investigate this compromise offer from the Texas Company and report to the Council at the next meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Richfield Oil Corporation, enclosing statement showing 2% of gross receipts in accordance with the requirements of Franchise Ordinance No. 92, for the period from January 1, 1944 to December 31, 1944; and enclosing check for \$194.78 in full payment of the above. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Mr. O. C. Matzner, 141 So. Orange Drive, Los Angeles, in reply to inquiry from the City Clerk, asking for a price on Lot 24, Block 7, Torrance Tract, at the corner of Cravens Avenue and El Prado. Mr. Matzner advised that the price of this lot is \$15,000.00. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Torrance Camp, Royal Neighbors of America, extending an invitation to the Councilmen to attend a formal reception in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Society and the 24th Anniversary of the Torrance Camp, to be held at the Woman's Club on Tuesday evening, May 15th.

Mayor Tolson instructed the City Clerk to acknowledge receipt of the communication and extend the thanks of the Councilmen for the invitation, and advising that any of the Councilmen able to do so would be glad to attend.

A communication was read from the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, advising that they wished to renew their lease of a portion of the Torrance Municipal Park for a child care center, for the period of one year, beginning June 15, 1945, at the same rental as last year, namely \$20.00 per month.

Councilman Cucci moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to enter into a lease agreement with the Board of Education for the child care center. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from The American Legion, Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, requesting permission to again operate the Canteen at the Municipal Park for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1945; and advising that they intend to conduct the California Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament at the Park this summer.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, American Legion, be granted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from August H. Sather, 959 West 47th Street, Los Angeles, making application for a temporary permit to place a portable house on Lot 16, Subdivision of Lot 30, Meadow Park Tract; said house to be used during construction of a permanent dwelling on Lot 17, in the same Block and Tract.

City Engineer Jain advised that he had talked with Mr. Sather and that this was apparently a prefabricated house, about 10' x 12', which he desired to occupy during construction of a permanent residence on an adjoining lot, and recommended that Mr. Sather be granted this temporary permit.

Following a short discussion, Councilman Gucci moved that Mr. Sather be granted a permit to construct and occupy a temporary dwelling, for a period of not to exceed ninety days. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. S. S. Shields, 1715 Arlington Avenue, requesting the transfer of License No. 502, which was issued to him on April 6, 1945, to operate a service station at 2624 Carson Street, to a washing-machine repair shop, which he desires to conduct in the garage at his home on Arlington Avenue.

Following a short discussion, Councilman Gucci moved that the fee paid by Mr. Shields for a license to operate a service station at 2624 Carson Street, be refunded to him, but that no transfer be made. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett advised that he had letters from five property owners on the southeast side of El Prado, requesting the removal of the eucalyptus trees in front of their properties.

Councilman Powell requested the City Clerk to read the names of the senders of these letters, which he proceeded to do, as follows:

Dr. and Mrs. John W. Beeman, 1518 El Prado
Dr. W. I. Laughon, 1452 El Prado
Mr. W. T. Lundquist, 1528 El Prado
Mr. Gaston J. Arcq, 1448 El Prado
Mr. B. C. Buxton, 1500 El Prado

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be instructed to acknowledge receipt of these communications, and that they be referred to the City Planning Commission, which is now making a study of this matter. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

A communication was read from the Department of Public Works, Division of Highways, advising that there is a refund of \$78.97 due the City of Torrance from the amounts paid for a State Plant Inspector during the paving operations on Torrance Boulevard, and that a State warrant would be forwarded from the Sacramento office.

A communication was read from Mr. Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, advising that the Torrance Industrial Soft Ball League has requested the City to furnish lights to the League during the 1945 season free of charge, and recommending that the City furnish a maximum of sixteen lights, provided games are free to the public.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this request be granted. Councilman Gucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Glenn M. Jain, Acting Secretary of the Torrance Planning Commission, advising that a public hearing had been held by the Planning Commission on April 3, 1945, to consider the petition of Lester D. Winland for a Variance and Conditional Permit to construct a store building for the storage and sale of new and second-hand furniture, on the north 330 feet of the East Half of Lot 70, McDonald Tract; that the Planning Commission had unanimously approved the petition, and recommended to the City Council that the petition be approved and the petitioner so notified.

Councilman Cucci moved that the recommendation of the Planning Commission be concurred in by the City Council. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Glenn M. Jain, Acting Secretary of the Torrance Planning Commission, advising that two public hearings had been held before the Planning Commission, on April 3rd and 17th, respectively, to consider the Petition for Change of Zone presented by the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company (Case No. 19); the petition requested that all property north of Torrance Blvd., west of Crenshaw Blvd., east of Madrona Ave., and south of the General Petroleum Refinery property be rezoned to heavy manufacturing (M-2).

Mr. Jain advised that in view of the overwhelming protest to the proposed rezoning the Planning Commission unanimously voted to disapprove the petition for change of zone, and recommended to the City Council that such petition be disapproved.

He further advised that in compliance with the State Planning Act, the City Council must set a date for a third and final public hearing on the Petition.

Councilman Cucci moved that the Council concur in the recommendations of the Planning Commission.

City Engineer Jain stated that he had received a telephone call from Mr. Daugherty, Vice-President of the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company, requesting that the Council withdraw their Petition until such time when they can present more definite information as to the type of industry which they might want to locate in that area; and had requested Mr. Jain to advise the Council that they were just as much interested in the welfare of the City of Torrance as other industries, and they didn't want anything out there that would create trouble of any kind.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Engineer be authorized to communicate with Mr. Daugherty and advise him to submit his request for the withdrawal of the Petition of the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company, in writing. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett advised that he had received the sum of \$2151.64 from the State of California, Department of Finance; being a refund of expenses incurred by the City for Civilian Defense Aid. Matter of record.

Clerk Bartlett presented, and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1718

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING EASEMENT FROM CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS FOR SANITARY SEWER PURPOSES.
(Lots 8 and 9, Tract No. 4956)

Councilman Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1718 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1719

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING CORPORATION QUITCLAIM DEED FROM REMCO-REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT COMPANY, FOR STREET AND HIGHWAY PURPOSES (Extension and widening of Border Avenue, from Plaza del Amo to Sepulveda Boulevard).

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1719 be adopted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1720

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING CORPORATION QUITCLAIM DEED FROM REMCO-REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT COMPANY, FOR STREET AND HIGHWAY PURPOSES (Extension of Lincoln Avenue, from Border Avenue, 242 feet Easterly).

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1720 be adopted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$300.00 be authorized for base material for the recreational area in the Pueblo District. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$150.00 be authorized for the purchase of a new V8 Ford motor and clutch exchange for Fire Truck No. 3. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$307.50, plus tax, be authorized for the purchase of fog nozzles, and other accessories for the Fire Department. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. D. J. Harris be employed as Park Maintenance Man, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective April 18, 1945; as a War Emergency employee, replacing Mr. Ralph Hoerr, who was transferred to the Street Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Powell moved that Police Chief Stroh be authorized to employ a relief man for a period of thirty to sixty days while other employees are on vacation. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Powell moved that the Civil Service Board be requested to call for an examination for the position of "Police Matron" at the earliest possible date. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell stated that the Chief of Police has recommended that a man be employed to work on juvenile cases entirely, and that he was in accord with this recommendation; whereupon Councilman Powell moved that the Chief of Police be authorized to employ another officer, and to designate one officer as a juvenile officer, effective as of July 1, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Powell stated that at the last meeting of the Council a communication was read from George Ellingson, regarding a court fine levied against him, which he alleged was an unjust levy due to the circumstances. Councilman Powell advised that he

had investigated this matter and personally did not think Mr. Ellingson has any just reason for complaint.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be closed and Mr. Ellingson so notified. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that David S. Clark be employed as a Bus Driver, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$185.00 per month, effective April 13, 1945. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Cucci advised that a vacancy exists on the Civil Service Board, since the resignation of Mr. Slonecker when he was employed in the Bus Department; whereupon he moved that Mr. James Loughridge of Walteria be appointed to membership on the Civil Service Board to serve the unexpired term of Mr. Paul Slonecker. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that Frank I. Coleman, who has been in the employ of the Bus Department, as a Bus Operator, be transferred to the Bus Garage as a Grade "B" Mechanic, and receive an increase in salary from \$185.00 per month to \$210.00 per month, effective as of April 1, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Cucci stated that he had been previously requested to ask the Civil Service Board to establish the classification of "Cashier-Bookkeeper"; and advised that after some investigation he finds it is necessary to have a classification of "Dispatcher"; and moved that the Civil Service Board be requested to establish these two classifications for the Bus Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci advised that a communication was read at the last Council Meeting, from the War Manpower Commission, in regard to lack of public transportation in the Torrance area; and reported that he had attended a meeting, with Mr. Ward, on last Monday, of the State Railroad Commission, Los Angeles Railway, Pacific Electric Railway, and several other groups representing the various transportation agencies; that when the War Manpower Commission was called upon to give their reason for the extended service, the person who made this recommendation was not present, and the result, naturally, was not satisfactory; that the O.C.D. tried to discourage any extension at this time due to the tire shortage, etc.; that it was the opinion of the Railroad Commission and the Pacific Electric Railway that there is sufficient service at this time to get the necessary labor needed in Torrance, with the exception of the Beach area which would be taken care of by the Redondo-Torrance line.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the salary of Albert H. Koehler be increased from \$170.00 to \$180.00 per month due to the fact that he is employed as greaseman at the City Garage; this increase to be effective as of April 1, 1945. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$532.00, plus tax, be authorized for the purchase of crushed rock for the repair of Madrona Avenue from Carson Street to Sepulveda Boulevard. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$650.00, plus tax, be authorized for the purchase of road oil for the improvement of Madrona Avenue, from Carson Street to Sepulveda Boulevard. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$224.00, plus tax, be authorized for road oil for Amie Street, from Torrance Boulevard to Spencer Street. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$148.40, plus tax, be authorized for road oil for Spencer Street, from Madrona Avenue to Amie Street. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$299.60, plus tax, be authorized for road oil for Madrona Avenue, from Torrance Boulevard to 1000 ft. north of Spencer Street. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$600.00 be authorized for engineering fees, as authorized by the Council for a report on the Walteria water situation; the survey having been made by the engineering firm of Taylor and Taylor. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock asked if the Council was going to have a meeting with the Engineers, in regard to the water situation, and suggested that a meeting be arranged for Monday, May 7th, at 7:00 P.M.; and requested the City Clerk to notify Messrs. Taylor and Taylor of this meeting.

Mayor Tolson brought up the matter of the State Retirement Plan for the City employees, and Councilman Hitchcock said the discussion was to hold it over until the next regular election, and in the meantime to give it as much publicity as possible, but that it would probably require another survey due to the fact that it will be held over until next year, which survey could not be made until after next December.

Chief Stroh advised that it would require eight or nine months to make a new survey, and as it cannot be requested until after December it would not be ready in time for the next general election in April.

Mayor Tolson asked Chief Stroh if a special election was held in the next few months, whether it could be given the proper publicity so everybody would understand it.

Chief Stroh said he believed it could be done in the next sixty days and give it all the publicity that would be necessary; that a meeting could be called and have a State representative here to give all the facts and figures; and that if it is held over it will cost the City anywhere from \$350.00 to \$500.00 for a new survey.

Councilman Powell stated that it will cost the City around \$2500.00 to \$3000.00 to hold a special election, and thought it would be better to go slow, and when the election is held we will get more cooperation.

Chief Stroh agreed with Councilman Powell, if there would be time to get another survey, but since it will take approximately nine months to get the survey, which cannot be requested until after next December it would be impossible to get it in time.

